

24. The method defined in Claim 14 wherein the balance weight has an aperture formed therethrough from an inner surface disposed adjacent to the unbalanced driveshaft to an outer surface, and the second portion of the adhesive material extends through the aperture and over a portion of the outer surface of the balance weight.

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Official Letter dated April 6, 1999. The specification has been amended to correct several typographical errors. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

New Claim 14 defines the invention as a method of manufacturing a driveshaft for use in a vehicular drive train assembly that is balanced for rotation about an axis. Initially, an unbalanced driveshaft and a balance weight are provided. An adhesive material is provided between the unbalanced driveshaft and the balance weight. The unbalanced driveshaft and the balance weight are moved toward one another such that a first portion of the adhesive material is disposed between the unbalanced driveshaft and the balance weight at a location for balancing the driveshaft for rotation about an axis. A second portion of the adhesive material extends from between the unbalanced driveshaft and the balance weight. Lastly, the second portion of the adhesive material is exposed to an accelerated curing process to cure the second portion of the adhesive material, thereby retaining the balance weight on the driveshaft, prior to curing the first portion of the adhesive material.

The art cited by the Examiner does not show or suggest the invention as now claimed. Specifically, the art cited by the Examiner does not show or suggest the use of the above-recited method in the field of manufacturing driveshafts for use in a vehicular drive train assembly, much less in the more specific field of balancing such driveshafts for rotation about an axis. Rather, the art cited by the Examiner relates to the assembly of vehicle windows into frames (the Duck et al. reference) and to the assembly of miscellaneous relatively small components, such as are used in refrigerators (the Challenger et al. reference). Neither of these fields of art are

analogous to the field of art of the claimed invention. Thus, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not even consider the teachings of such references when considering the problems posed by the field of art of the claimed invention.

The problems associated with the prior art methods within the applicant's field of art are documented in the specification. This invention provides a solution to such problems and, therefore, addresses a long-felt need in the industry. Accordingly, the invention recited in new Claim 14 is clearly patentable over the cited references.

In view of the amendments and above remarks, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early Notice Of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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